Jacqueline Barton Midterm Lesson Plan

Summer 2013 Instructor: Shakira Provasoli

**Description:** Much of what we throw away as garbage can be recycled, and therefore should not be considered garbage in the first place. Take for example food scraps, which, according to 2009 data of our municipal solid waste, made up the second largest component of the garbage we generated. All that food scrap, which is organic material, can be recycled through a process called composting, nature’s way of recycling.

**Professional Development of Teacher:**

Competency 1e: designing coherent instruction

**Charlotte Danielson’s Framework for Teaching**

Competency 3b: Using questioning and discussion

Competency 3c: Engaging students in learning

**Blooms Taxonomy**: Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, and Evaluation

**K-8 Science, Scope and Sequence:**

Inquiry skills- classifying objects according to given information

Communicating- giving oral explanation and graphic representation

**Lesson Title:** Collecting food scraps

Grade Level: Pre Kindergarten

**Background information:** We have a blue recycle bin in our classroom where we place paper and cardboard which we reuse for various arts and crafts projects, and also as scrap paper. In previous lessons children shared what they know about recycling. They were shown the blue bin and where it lives in the room and they identified papers that can go into our paper bin and paper that has to go in the trash. We had lessons about why it’s important to use less paper, (**reduce**), use paper more than once (**reuse**), and make new paper from old paper, (**recycle**).

In this upcoming lesson the focus will be sorting food scraps that can go into a classroom food scrap bucket. Other lessons to follow will focus on: transferring the scraps to the compost pile, observing the scraps overtime, finding decomposers (critters) that are working to turn the food scraps into compost, sifting the finished compost, and using it for the Pre Kindergarten herb garden.

**Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to identify what can go into a food scrap bucket

2. Students will explore compost pile to see and identify some of the decomposers that transform food scraps to compost

3. Students will observe the changes in the food scraps over time

4. Students will prepare the compost when it is ready and use the compost in the school garden and in the classroom.

In this lesson students will participate in collecting classroom food scraps to bring to the compost pile in the schoolyard.

**Materials**

Bucket to collect food scraps

Food scraps- saved from previous day(s). Make sure the collection has plant based and animal based food, for example, left over pieces of cold cuts, apple core, banana peel, peelings, maybe bones from chicken, piece of bread, cheese, etc.

**Procedure:**

“We have been collecting the papers we use in our classroom and placing them in this bin, and we have been reusing this paper.” Mention some examples of times you saw children going to the bin to get paper to reuse. In addition bring attention to times you go to the bin to get paper to use. Then say to children that now we are going to start collecting something else in our classroom that we will reuse in a different way. We are going to start collecting our food scraps.

“What is food scraps?”

Well I have a collection of food scraps in this bag and we are going to look at the scraps to decide which can go into our food scrap bucket and which cannot. Our food scrap bucket only likes food that comes from plants.

Display food scrap on newspaper or bin in center of table or rug. Make sure there is room to comfortable fit all the students wherever you decide to do this lesson. Outside in a schoolyard, if available, can also work well.

Hold up a piece of food scrap, remind the children that the food scrap bucket only likes food that comes from plants, and ask them can this go into the bucket. Whatever their answer is, yes or no, follow up by asking why.

Children can take turns coming up and selecting a piece of food scrap that they think can go into the bucket.

After everything that can go into the food scrap bucket has been sorted out,

You can tell the children that the left over will go into the regular garbage since it can’t go into the food scrap bucket.

Place the bucket in a place in the room that is easy accessible for the children to put their scraps into after lunch and snack. Keep it covered.

This bucket will be brought to the compost area in the school yard by a teacher and a small group of children twice a week.

Lesson number two will focus on placing the food in the pile and covering the food. The children will also get to see some of the organism that are in the compost pile.

(Information for the teacher- Although anything that was once alive will compost, such as meats, as well as fats, these foods are not place in compost piles because they can attract pests, create unpleasant odor, and also take a long time to break down. Eggshells can be placed in compost pile.

**Assessment:**

 

**Food Food Scrap bucket Trash**

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Resources:

Cornell Composting, Composting in Schools

eHow health: Recycling

A School Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, Composting & Buy Recycled Resourced Book

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/294.html